

February 2018

ECHO ECHO

*Newsletter of the
Washington Church of the New Jerusalem*

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Dear Friends,

Have you ever really thought about how or why the New Church will grow? Most of us have a lot of vague ideas about why it isn't growing (or doesn't seem to be), but thinking constructively about

it isn't so easy. For one thing we live in a culture that is not particularly friendly to core New Church teachings, despite the popular *casual* interest in spiritual things. Maybe it's the materialism of the age, or maybe they just don't seem *relevant* any more, but many people don't seem to have the time or patience for traditional forms of worship and instruction.

So what do YOU think the church needs to do to attract new members? And what are you, personally, willing to do about it?

As a pastor I think about this stuff all day long, pretty much every day. It's my job. But *I* am not the church; all I can do is preach, teach, counsel, organize and encourage. The church itself is the fellowship of those who **share** their faith in the Lord in His Word, and the life of charity. Sure, I could attract public attention and share the message of the doctrines (as Curtis Childs does on the Internet), but what does **the church** need to do to prosper and grow?



If this is important to you then I hope you will attend the society meeting that has now been scheduled for **Friday night, February 23rd**. Although the purpose of that meeting is to discuss the congregation's leadership needs as we prepare for the call of a new head

pastor in 2019, a big part of that discussion is determining what kind of support **you** want for what **you** believe and are willing to do to help the church sustain its mission.

It's not a simple matter, so be prepared for a wide range of differing opinions. And please keep an open mind.

The next step in the process will probably be the now scheduled *visit by Bishop Brian Keith over the weekend of April 21st – 22nd*, when he will take counsel with you and help direct the conversation, since your regional pastor has an obvious conflict of interest.

It is of course much too early to begin thinking about the men themselves who might be willing and able to serve here; in any case the options may be limited. The big deal at this time is to see if we can agree on *what sort of church we want to have*, which, if growth matters, includes what sort of church we ourselves are willing to provide for others.

Thank you for giving this your prayerful thought.

Meanwhile, here's an Idea.

Some months ago I circulated a proposal to a handful of members that we consider a new alternative worship service, possibly to be held on a Saturday or Sunday night. The service would include new or different music, some lay leadership, discussion and other forms of interaction in an entirely new format. (Note, this would not be some new kind of "family service" but would cater mainly to adults, perhaps mainly young adults.)

A few responded affirmatively but to date we haven't had enough interest to move forward. In any case this will require some careful thought and the support of people with various gifts or talents. A key feature of it would be that the minister alone will not be responsible for the form or content, but will guide and facilitate the events, providing input as needed.

If you think this sort of thing might interest you, please let me know and I'll add you to an invitation list for a meeting sometime later this month when we can discuss the possibilities.

Best wishes,



Church HELP WANTED, Volunteer, Part Time

Dear Friends,

As we continue to work and hope for increased school enrollment we are finding that our dear Bonnie has plenty of work to keep her busy full time on school duties. She still manages to get a lot done for me as pastor, but there is a great deal *more* that simply can't be done in the same 50-55 hour week.

One day, when the church can support it, we hope to have a paid position available for a church secretary. Unfortunately we are not there yet. But if anyone would like to get a foot in the door and try working as a volunteer part-time, there is at least some hope that it could morph into a paying job. This is a call for anyone interested to contact me to explore the possibilities.

The time commitment is completely negotiable as long as it is on an agreed schedule. Uses or duties involved would be along these lines and involve these skills, among others: -

- Computer skills including all the basic Microsoft programs
- Creating ads and promotional materials for the church
- Keeping the church website up to date (a weekly task)
- Scheduling and responding to church inquiries
- Formatting, printing and folding worship service materials
- Sorting and organizing stored church equipment of all sorts
- Filing in the main office and in the pastor's office.

If you or anyone you know has an interest in this work I would welcome an opportunity to discuss it further. The work could begin almost immediately and although some clerical experience would be a big advantage at least *some* training could be provided on the job. Do you need to be committed to the New Church to apply? I guess not, but it sure would be a big advantage.

I look forward to hearing from you.



MEN: in a bid to foster friendships and camaraderie among the male members of the church Patrick Sweeney is hosting a **men's night out** at his place (in Bowie) **on February 2nd, starting at 7:30 PM.** Pat has a really sweet "man cave" in his basement and is looking forward to hosting all who can make it, college age and up. Bring some food or drink to share and figure on a really relaxed night of games, cards and/or good, old-fashioned conversation. Questions? - Call, or email Patrick at pmsweeney25@gmail.com.

Money Matters

Following on one of our best Decembers ever for contributions to the church, we thought you might be interested in the **patterns** of giving by our members and friends.

These patterns are difficult to graph since they are multidimensional, but if we build a pyramid based on the numbers of donors it is gratifying to note that *the very solid base of this pyramid consist of 20 who each contributed between \$1,000 and \$5,000 in 2017.* The next “layer” consists of 16 donors who each contributed between \$1 and \$1,000. Then there is a third level consisting of 11 donors who each gave between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

On top of that were 3 who gave between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and 3 more who each gave OVER \$30,000 in 2017.

The peak of the pyramid consists of 2 non-member “friends” who each gave between \$15,000 and \$20,000, and finally one member who gave between \$20,000 and \$25,000. None of these figures includes money paid for school tuition.

Only you and the treasurers know how much you give, and your tax receipts will be in your mailboxes soon. The main value in showing these giving *patterns* is to help you understand where our support comes from and to give you an idea where you fit in. For some this can be motivational. For example, if you are in the narrow band of those who gave up to \$1,000 last year, that might be a cause of celebration at your house. Or it might move you to wonder whether you could possibly make some adjustments and jump to the next higher level this year.

Giving to the church is a very personal and private thing. All we know collectively for sure is how important your support – both monetary and volunteer – is to the health and future of this church.

So once again, thanks for a great calendar year! Let’s keep up the good work right through to the end of the fiscal year in June!

~ Mike Gladish, Pastor, & Brent Hyatt, treasurer

Church Events in February, 2018

Friday, the 2nd, starting at 7:30 – a men’s night out hosted by Pat Sweeney at his house. See details on page 4.

Mondays, the 5th & 19th, the *evening* Heaven and Hell study group meets at the Cooper home at 8:00 PM with Rev. Ferrell.

Tuesday, the 6th, the WNC School board will hold its regular meeting at the church at 7:30.

Tuesday, the 13th, the Board of Trustees will meet at 7:30.

Wednesdays, the 7th & 21st, the Prophets Survey Course continues at the church with the pastor & Rev. Bernita.

Wednesdays, the 14th & 28th, the *morning* Heaven & Hell study group meets at the Gladish home at 11:00 AM.

Fri. – Sunday, the 9th – 11th, the Women’s Respite Weekend will take place at a big home near Cambridge, MD. Please see Wystan for details.

Friday, the 23rd there will be a special society meeting to discuss the future direction of the church here and the particular skills and talents needed by a new pastor to begin in 2019.

Saturdays all month except the 17th, the Yoga class meets at 2:30, and **on the 17th** the Guild of Bowie Artists has its regular workshop from 9:30 ’til about 2 PM.

From the BOT

The Board of Trustees met on January 9, addressing budgets, school status, and building maintenance. The Board decided to hold an informal Society meeting on February 23 to address our Pastor Mike Gladish's planned June, 2019 retirement and gain input from the congregation on the search for a replacement. Come "build" your new Pastor!

Sermon Topics for February, 2018

the 4th: “Hallowed be Thy Name.” Continuing with our occasional series on the Lord’s Prayer, this is offered in conjunction with and to help set the stage for **the holy supper**, also to be offered toward the conclusion of the service. ~ MDG

the 11th: Abraham and Ishmael. Gen 16. Abrahams depicts the highest level of humanity, the Lord’s, and by reflection, our own. Yet his first born is Ishmael – a rough and stubborn beginning on the path of regeneration. ~ BDS

the 18th: Jeremiah: the Prophet and his Prophecies. He was one of the most courageous characters in the Bible and yet we know very little of his work. Come and learn, and be inspired by what he has to teach us today. ~ MDG

the 25th: “Lead us Not into Temptation...” Huh? Why do we even say this in the Prayer, knowing that He never does? Come and see as we explore how and why the Lord permits temptations in our lives and leads us *through* them. ~ MDG

Announcements

Found: near trail into soccer field and Acton Park woods- a pair of reading glasses. Contact Simonses - [301-237-1283](tel:301-237-1283).

Work Party Cancelled: the February 3rd work party has been cancelled due to our building manager being out of town. **However!** This does not mean there is not work that could be done. Have some free time? Contact the office, let us know what are your skills and we will find a job for you! Next scheduled work party: Saturday, April 14th.



“CHILI” Sunday: Sunday, February 4th (Super Bowl Sunday) TAG will be selling Chili – several varieties. Contact Bonnie – bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org and place your order. Then pick up after church Sunday the 4th.

2018 Echo Directory: The new directory is done and there are copies available at the church. Please feel free to take more than one if you'd like. If you would like me to mail you one just call or email the church office: bonnie.cowley@washnewchurch.org.

Acton Park: The Annual meeting of the Acton Park Corporation will be after church on Sunday, March 4, 2018. Anyone interested in this use of the Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, Inc. and its future are more than welcome at the meeting whether you are a member of the corporation or not.

2017 Echo Subscriptions: Make sure you stay informed about society events and services. Be stimulated by articles from our Pastors. Be entertained by our News Notes Editor. And *always* know when you are "On Duty". Just send back the slip of paper included in this "Echo" along with your \$15 to: The Washington New Church, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, MD 20721.

SE District Scholarship Fund: Southeastern District Scholarship Funds are available to anyone who lives in the SE district who would like assistance with paying for education at the Academy High School, the Bryn Athyn College or the Theological School.



Note - these grants are also now available for students attending the *WNCS high school*.

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2018, for those hoping to attend in the 2018/2019 school year. Please send your application to: Attn.: SE District Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund: Levi Cowley Scholarship Funds are available to graduates of the Washington New Church School who would like assistance with paying for education or books at any school of higher education (college).

Applications should include the names of the students, their home address, the names of the parents if they are applying on behalf of their children and the school that they hope to attend. Applications are due no later than April 30, 2017, for those hoping to attend in 2018/2019. Please send your application to:

Attn.: Levi Cowley Scholarship Fund - Washington Church of the New Jerusalem, 11914 Chantilly Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20721.

From the Theta Alpha Guild (TAG)

TAG welcomes 2018 with many community activities. Watch the calendar for our upcoming “Souper” Sundays – our gratitude to all the cooks, bakers, and eaters! The Women’s Respite Weekend will take place February 9-11 – Questions? Contact Wystan at lovinchickens@gmail.com

Volunteer opportunities:

Care Packages – Donate items: Every year for Valentine’s Day, we send packages full of dorm-friendly food (baked goods, hot chocolate packets, etc.) to WNCS alums away at school in Bryn Athyn, PA. Please drop off items for our 8 students (1 is gluten intolerant) in the designated box in the WNCS lobby, from Monday 1/29 through Wednesday 2/7. Package assembly on 2/7 or 2/8 – contact Becca if you would like to help (beccalek@gmail.com, [202-834-0343](tel:202-834-0343)). Note: Valuables such as gift cards should be left with Bonnie. FYI, TAG also sends love to our other young alums in the form of handmade Valentines and \$5 Starbucks cards.

Valentine’s Teacher Luncheon: On Wednesday February 14 at 12 noon, Theta Alpha women led by Jean Allen are serving lunch to the WNCS faculty. Contact Jean (jean.allen7@me.com) to help with food, cleanup, or supervision of students so that the teachers can enjoy the meal.

TAG Secretary needed: With much gratitude to our long-serving secretary, Mary Cooper, Theta Alpha Guild is looking for a new secretary to take down minutes during our quarterly meetings.

Consider contributing in this way starting in September 2018. Contact any of our Executive Officers for more information: Becca Smith, Wystan Simons, Kathy Johns, and Mary Cooper.

Couple's shower for Brian & Kristin on February 24, 7-10 pm: All are welcome to celebrate Brian Kunkle and Kristin Hein at the Zubers' home ([11906 Progress Lane, Bowie, MD 20721](http://www.boscovstravel.com/registry/travel-registry-detail.aspx?id=1183)). Stay tuned for a Perfect Potluck to help with refreshments. Message from the couple:

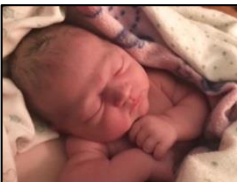
"We'd like to thank everyone ahead of time for coming and celebrating our upcoming wedding with us. In lieu of physical gifts from a registry we would instead ask for the gift of a once in a lifetime experience. For our honeymoon we are going to Hawaii and every little bit helps to make that trip become a reality. Thank you for all the love and support we have received thus far and continue to receive from the community."

Boscov Travel Registry can be accessed at

<http://www.boscovstravel.com/registry/travel-registry-detail.aspx?id=1183>

News notes

Hi friends! Hope your post-holiday season has been going smoothly— we have been slowly getting back into normal life, and Hugo has been using this opportunity to hone his communication skills. He can say “more” and every time we talk about snacks, he makes the munching sound. I have found the secret to winning over Hugo in any sort of situation, and it is called Fritos. Hugo is so highly motivated by a Frito. He will sit happily in a car seat for ages after he has one. It's a power tool, so I'm trying not to overuse it. ;) Next month I'll tell you about his love of the itty bitsy spider, so stay tuned.



Jeanine and Dan Federline wrote in to share the news of their new addition! Baby news is always good news. Jeanine said, “I wanted to officially inform you that we welcomed our new little girl, **Arden Day Federline**, on

1/20/2018 at 3:17 AM. She was 7 lbs. 11 oz., 19” at birth, and joined the 5% of babies born on their due dates! We’re adjusting well to life as a family of four!”

The new grandparents, Mary Ellen and John Kern, and her aunt Christiana, as well as big sister Zara are excited too.

Dorothy Radcliffe wrote in to share their “snowbird” news, as they prepare to head to Florida! Bill and Dorothy will be going to Florida to attend the meetings of the Boynton Beach Retreat this Sunday. Dorothy said, “We have an added agenda right now in that three of my sisters are there.”

Mike Gladish shared an update on Ginny’s eye surgery, so send good healing thoughts their way!

“**Ginny Gladish** had a successful surgery for cataracts in one eye, and is now looking forward to another for the other eye on February 8th. She thanks all of you for your best wishes. Meanwhile both Mike and Ginny have been undergoing physio-therapy for arm and shoulder problems, hopefully to be resolved soon.”

The **Matt Smith family** had a festive (in their words, “soggy”) occurrence at their house while they were picking up Savanna (PS welcome back to the neighborhood!). Here’s the full story:

“Matt, Sara, and Savanna recently drove to southern Illinois for a good visit with their son Joram, wife Katelyn and little guy, Koen. They were also going to retrieve Savanna’s belongings as she is moving home from that area back to MD. Unfortunately, while they were away their sprinkler system pipes burst and they came home to a soggy mess. Luckily, son Evan was still in town and he, together with Stewart Smith, mopped up as much of the disaster as possible... The house sat soggily for a few days before Servpro could come in and do a real clean up – apparently many others in the area had their pipes burst the same cold weekend too.

Two days later Sara ended up going out to Glenview to stay with family and to be with her mother, Kathleen Fuller (age 102) who was not doing well and was hospitalized. Remarkably, her mother is improving and is on the mend in a rehab facility, and Sara has now returned home”

Jerry & Deena Odhner's journey out and away from Mitchellville has finally come to a happy conclusion. Deena says, "The house has finally sold; the ribbon has been cut, but the deep loving ties to you all at the church remain. Thank you a life time of memories. I am only a call (same number 703.772.0678) or email away. Love to you all, Deena Odhner".

That's all for this month, folks! Keep that good news coming. :)

All sent with loving notes from your handy News Compiler, Hanna Hyatt. See my next email for another Hugo story, as always!

Dessert & hors d'oeuvres Contest

Sat. March 3rd

8:00pm

College age and up

At Brent & Amanda
Hyatt's

*Enter your favorite recipe
or just come to enjoy the
food and company*